



Space Observer

Friday, Oct. 25, 2002

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

Vol. 46 No. 41

HALLOWEEN SHOWS ITS MANY FACES ON PETERSON

PAGES 12-13

Beware and be aware of goblins, munchkins, and more --
Peterson AFB Trick-or-Treating 5:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 31

Photos by Staff Sgt. Melanie Epperson

Customs, courtesies, and proper disposal of Old Glory

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Civic leaders get taste of Air Force

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Photo by 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

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Putting third first

By Brig. Gen. Duane Deal
21st Space Wing Commander


Sometimes things appear on a list and people assume they're in an order of priority. But that's certainly not the case ... consider the Ten Commandments, which have been with us since around 1440 B.C. — #6's "Thou shalt not kill" is on the same plane with #8's "Thou shalt not steal." Or consider the Bill of Rights, in force since 1791 — Amendment I's freedom of speech and religion is on equal footing with Amendment #VIII's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. Now consider our Air Force Core Values: "Integrity first ... Service before self ... Excellence in all we do." If you assumed they were in a priority order, "excellence" would be third — but it's not.

Like the Ten Commandments and the Bill of Rights, those values are actually on an even par with each other — you can't really achieve the purpose of all three without achieving each of them, and vice versa. Integrity begets service

which begets excellence if you have integrity while performing that service excellently — whew! Understand?

Regardless, for the good and longevity of our nation, for our military department, for our wing, for ourselves, excellence must be bedrock in all we do.

It's gratifying to note and encourage excellence as the watchword of this wing ... and recognition of that excellence keeps flowing our way, from our Medical Group's support, to our ops mission 24/7 coverage, to a seemingly endless string of letters proclaiming thanks for the multitude of services we provide. Yet anyone can "proclaim" excellence — it's those who consistently perform well who are doing well, from the routine tasks that reflect an "excellence frame of mind," to the massive projects whose imbedded details reflect excellence.

Ben Franklin once said "Well done is better than well said." I join many others in applauding those whose work speaks for itself — of excellence in all they do. Thank you all! 

Action Line

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line is your direct link to the 21st Space Wing Commander — use it wisely! Try to resolve problems at the lowest level possible — with the person or activity, and then follow the chain of command.

Though it's not required, we ask that you leave your name and phone number so we can get back to you for clarifications, or if your response isn't printed.

If you can't get satisfactory results, then call (719) 556-7777. You may also fax your question to 556-7848.

Anthem Appreciation


QUESTION: I'm disappointed with those I see who ignore the national anthem when others around them hear it and render a salute, have their hand over their heart, or stop their cars. That's the time of day I like to jog, and I continue to see a few who hear it, but ignore it. I consider this a lack of integrity and disrespect to the flag.

ANSWER: We couldn't agree more, and encourage you to continue to diplomatically set the example for those who might appear 'above'

rendering honors to the anthem and flag. To educate those who may have missed it, we now play Reveille at 7:00 a.m., Retreat and the US National Anthem at 5:30 p.m., and Taps will begin Monday at 10 p.m. Since Reveille and Taps are not part of official ceremonies, it is proper to proceed about your business. However, when the anthem is played, it is appropriate to face in the direction of the flag and salute (when in uniform) or to place your hand over your heart if in civilian attire; when driving, it is appropriate to stop until the music ends—we'll even temporarily halt traffic flow through our gates during the anthem. Please continue to spread the word and educate those who—perhaps from simple ignorance—don't follow these traditions.

Flag Disposal

QUESTION: While disposing of some trash in a dumpster, I discovered an American flag among the trash. Throwing it away can't be the right way to dispose of it. Please tell us how we should be doing that versus trashing it.

ANSWER: We appreciate your observation and the opportunity to publicize this. For complete details, please see the article (right) by our Fire Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Rod Coleman. 

Properly bidding farewell to Old Glory


By Chief Master Sgt. Rod Coleman
21st CES/CEF Fire Chief

Patriotism has soared in Pete Complex throughout the past year's events. Along with this increase in pride for our nation, we have seen a huge rise in the display of the American flag to reflect our solidarity and commitment. However, some of those flags have become worn, and are no longer fit for use. To preserve our national symbol, it's very important that they be disposed of in an honorable manner.

The United States Flag Code 36s 176(k) states: "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

In many American communities, one or more organizations render an important community service by collecting and overseeing the proper disposal of old, worn, tattered, frayed, and/or faded U.S. Flags.

The 21st Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department Color Guard is initiating such a program at Peterson Air Force Base for proper flag disposal. To participate, bring your unserviceable flags to the main fire station, Building 218. Our Fire Department Color Guard will periodically destroy the flags with a ceremony fitting for our national emblem.

For residents living off base, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 101 at 7102 South Tejon St. provides this service for the Colorado Springs area bi-monthly. 



Flag Trivia

The Humphrey's Flag Company of Philadelphia, Pa. completed a 505-foot by 255-foot flag in 1992. It weighs one and one-half tons. The flag was commissioned by Ski Demski of Long Beach, Calif. The fabric alone cost \$30,000 wholesale. Sewing it took several thousand manhours.

Space Observer

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A Moment in Time: October



■ On Oct. 25, 1942, American bombers raid Japanese-occupied Hong Kong for the first time.

■ On Oct. 26, 1909, Lt. F. E. Humphreys becomes the first Army officer to fly solo in the Wright Military Flyer at College Park, Maryland Army plane.

■ On Oct. 31, 1959, The first American ICBM equipped with a nuclear warhead (Series "D" Atlas) went on alert at Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

Information courtesy of Staff Sgt. Trisha Morgan, 21st Space Wing History Office.

Peterson Fire Department dedicates flagpole, memorial

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

“Through blurred eyes, we find the strength and courage to soar beyond the moment. We look to the future knowing we can never forget the past. God Bless America.”

These words are engraved on a memorial dedicated Tuesday in front of Peterson’s Crash, Fire, and Rescue Station.

The memorial, created by Rob Dixon, consists of a foundation in the shape of a pentagon, a fireman’s brass bell, a flagpole, and, in the center, a time capsule to be opened in 2027.

Following the invocation by Chaplain (Capt.) Robert Borger, Deputy Fire Chief Cindy Litteral saluted past Chiefs of the Peterson Fire Station in attendance. The Peterson Fire Department Color Guard hoisted the “Stars and Stripes” to full staff.

Litteral and Borger then tolled the bell in memory of those who had lost their lives at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, on United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, and all other fallen firefighters. Litteral removed the bell’s ringer and presented it to Ch. Borger, saying, “The only time this bell will be rung is today.”

Of the time capsule, Litteral said, “What we’re trying to do here is to put the bad times of the past, and the bad memories of September 11 in the past.” Several items, including training materials, videos, newspapers, and time logs from fire departments throughout Air Force Space Command, were presented to Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander. The commander placed each item into the time capsule. The final item presented was from Ch. Borger. It was the ringer from the monument’s bell.



Photos by Joe Fischer

Base members stand as the Air Force song is played during Tuesday’s ceremony.

The Color Guard brought forward the bronze lid for the time capsule and put it into place.

Litteral and Brig. Gen. Deal then cut the halyard from the flagpole, signifying that the flag will remain flying from this day forward. “The halyard will be passed from each shift to the next,” Litteral said. “Each person presented with the halyard will be handed the responsibility for this flag. This is the first time this flag has been flown, but it will be indefinite, from now until forever.”

The general presented the halyard to Mr. David Ulman, who became the first protector of the flag.



The plaque on the Sept. 11 memorial that was dedicated Tuesday.



Members of the Fire Department’s color guard prepare to seal the newly dedicated time capsule.



Chaplain (Capt.) Robert Borger tolls a bell in memory of those who lost their lives at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, on United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, and all other fallen firefighters, as Deputy Fire Chief Cindy Litteral salutes.



Brig. Gen. Deal cuts the flag halyard held by Deputy Fire Chief Litteral, signifying that the flag will remain flying from this day forward.



CONSTRUCTION

Portions of the Base Exchange, Commissary, and Building 1470 parking lots will be closed on November 11, 12, and 13 for pavement maintenance. Your cooperation is appreciated.

SPANISH LINGUIST

Need to fill several requirements, E-6 and below, reporting Nov. 18. Must possess current Defense Language Proficiency Test scores of 2+/Listening or 2+/Reading or better. Applicant must have a secret clearance and a government credit card in possession before departure. Duty will be performed in the Washington D.C. area. Call the MPF for further information.

THUNDERBIRDS NOW
HIRING

The USAF Thunderbirds are currently accepting applications for commander/leader, two demonstration pilots, flight surgeon, and maintenance offi-

cer for the 2004-2005 demonstration seasons. Packages must be received no later than Jan. 13, 2003. Contact Staff Sgt. Brandy Erven at DSN 682-2279 for more information.

NEW WATERING
RESTRICTIONS

The following watering restrictions are in effect for base housing residents from October through April.

■ Residents with even addresses water the second Sunday of each month.

■ Residents with odd addresses water the second Saturday of each month.

If snow and freezing temperatures prohibit base residents from watering on their designated day, they may water on their day during the fourth week of the month.

Watering of trees, shrubs, planting beds, and planters is allowed using a handheld hose with an attached shutoff nozzle, drip irrigation system or bucket according to the follow-

ing schedule: October, November and April – Two times per month. December through March – Once per month.

An allowance has been made for trees, shrubs, planting beds, and planters that were planted during 2002. These plants may be watered twice a week during October and November, and twice a month from December through April.

SANTA'S TOY
CONSIGNMENT SALE

Santa's Toy Consignment Sale will be held Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Fort Carson Field House, Building 1160, across from Burger King on Nov. 16 between 9 a.m. and noon. Customers will be able to purchase new or like new toys and children's items at a discounted price.

RE-ENLIST AT USAFA
GAME

The Air Force Academy will host an enlistment/re-

enlistment ceremony during halftime at the Nov. 23 home football game against San Diego State University. Uniform for the ceremony is service dress. Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. John R. Dallager will be the officiating officer.

EDUCATION OFFICE

■ Tuition assistance
-- The education office now provides 100 percent tuition assistance. Here are some basic guidelines to keep in mind:

– The maximum the Air Force can pay per semester hour is \$250 or \$166.67 per quarter hour. This equates to \$750 that the Air Force could pay for a three semester hour course.

– Fees required as a condition of enrolling in a course can be paid as part of the overall maximum of \$250 per semester hour.

– There is an annual ceiling of \$4,500 that the Air Force

will pay in tuition assistance for any individual. This cannot be waived and there will be no exceptions to this policy.

SNOW PARADE

A parade is scheduled for Nov. 1, 1-2:30 p.m., on base. Featured will be snow removal equipment and also many group commanders will be riding throughout the parade. If you have any questions call John Coutee at 556-1460.

COMMANDER'S ACCESS
CHANNEL

Beginning today, the Commander's Access Channel will be sporting a new look. Check it out on Channel 3.

PETERSON OPENINGS

The 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson has immediate openings for qualified Aircraft Maintenance Officers and technicians. These positions require one weekend per month and 15 days of active duty per year. Please call 556-8095 for details.



At the Base Chapel

Protestant
Liturgical Worship, 8:15 a.m.
Traditional Sunday Worship
11 a.m.
Gospel Services, 12:30 p.m.

Catholic
Weekday Mass, 11:35 a.m.
Saturdays, 5 p.m.
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Reconciliation Saturdays, 4 p.m.

Religious Education
Catholic and Protestant Sunday
School classes begin at 8:30 and
9:45 a.m. respectively.

**For more information
Call the chapel at 556-4442
for available chapel
programs.

Blotter

The following real-life events with real individuals from around the Peterson Complex are to inform you of crimes, accidents, and events occurring on base.

The following entries are from hundreds recorded in the Peterson Police Blotter:

***Editor's note: Although the Space Observer staff may make light of some Blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.*

Scrape & scam by scum – Oct. 14

A car parked in the lot of dormitory 1156 was damaged overnight. The owner of the konked kar called Security Forces to report a white scuff mark and a three-inch crack on the right rear bumper panel.

Machine passes gas – Oct. 15

The Peterson Fire Department informed Security Forces they were responding to the Child Development Center because of a

report of a smell of gas. The response was quickly terminated when it was determined that the reason for the smell was not due to a natural gas leak or even a bean burrito, but due to generators being turned on for heat.

Backin' & bonkin' – Oct. 16

A bargain hunter was on the prowl for a parking space at the Thrift Shop. She found her prey and started to capture it; however, she got more than she bargained for when she was hit dead in her tracks by a backing driver. Security Forces issued the backin' bonker with a citation for improper backing.

Smart drivers choose clinic to have an accident – Oct. 16

Two drivers perfectly choreographed their accident by backing into each other simultaneously

in the Medical Clinic's parking lot. Luckily, neither was hurt, except for their pride and their vehicles, both of which sustained minor damage. Security Forces applauded their choice of accident locations with citations for inattentive backing.

Do you know what 'red' means? – Oct. 16

A smart driver stops at a red light and waits for the green before proceeding, though that didn't protect one driver from someone not so smart. The careful driver was stopped at the intersection of Peterson Boulevard and Selfridge Street, just patiently waiting to leave base. Another driver fancied himself as a bit of a roadrunner and, clearly confused, thought that red meant to go. The

lackadaisical lunk achieved ramming speed and slammed into the back of the careful driver's car, smashing it like a can. Security Forces issued the red & green confuser with a not so confusing black & white citation for driving in a careless manner resulting in an accident.

Two strikes and you're in ... jail! – Oct. 16

When Security Forces was doing a license check as they issued an individual a citation for parking in a prohibited area, they discovered the dude was wanted for failure to appear in court for a violation downtown. After the parking poacher court cutter was transported to Security Forces HQ, he began to feel ill (you would, too!)-the Fire Department and AMR responded, determining it to be only a cold (or cold feet?). The double dummy was released to the Springs Police and taken to the El Paso County Jail.

Jack fell down – Oct. 18

At 2:30 am, an underage airman was driving through the West Gate and was stopped for a random inspection. As he got out of his car, his friend Jack also got out of the car with him ... his friend Jack was a 750 ml bottle of Jack Daniels liquor that fell out of his pant leg. The booze bearer was transported to the clinic for a uri-

nalysys test, and later to the Security Forces HQ for a BRAC test. His buddy Jack was later transported to a locker for safekeeping and for evidence. The minor was released to his first sergeant, likely not ecstatic from having to respond so early on a weekend.

Drunk or drowsy? – Oct. 18

A West Gate traveler was suspected of displaying signs of intoxication. Security Forces escorted the annoyed accused to the clinic for a urinalysis test. Before the test he irritably stated, "Take me to the Intoxilizer and I'll blow." It was later determined that he was indeed not intoxicated, but was just overly tired from traveling all day from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. The tired trekker was released on his own recognizance, and reminded about pushing safety limits too far.

What's the real story? – Oct. 20

A Commissary shopper complained to Security Forces that somebody stole his shopping cart that had a magazine and a card valued at \$8, which he had just purchased at the Base Exchange. When asked, the shopper couldn't remember what kind of magazine or card he had just purchased, but he knew he had bought them. Hmmm...

(Anyone witnessing an unlawful act should call the Security Forces at 556-4000.)



Interested in Air Force opportunities?



Contact Air Force Recruiting Service
at www.airforce.com
or 800-423-USAF





Tri-wing effort showcases Total Force

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Thibault
[50th Space Wing Public Affairs](#)

Three wings located at two local bases stepped up to showcase the Air Force in its total capacity last week. The 21st Space Wing, 50th Space Wing, and 302nd Airlift Wing flew more than 20 local civic leaders to Nellis and Vandenberg Air Force Bases to see firsthand the Air Force in action.

“Teaming with the 50th Space Wing and 302nd Airlift Wing proved beneficial to everyone — especially to these civic leaders who saw Nellis and Vandenberg, but also gained a glimpse at these Colorado Springs-based wings,” said Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander. “Not a single leader came away without expanded knowledge to add to a much greater appreciation for our Total Force and its members.”

The group began the tour by boarding one of the 302nd AW’s C-130s, enjoying the views during the journey toward the “city that never sleeps.” Sheriff John Anderson, El Paso County, was repeatedly found peering out the window. “It’s so beautiful. You don’t get this type of view on civilian airplanes,” he said.

Upon landing at Nellis AFB, the group partook of a huge display of military aircraft on site for the current Red Flag exercise. F-15s, F-16s, B-1s, B-2s, E-3s, and many more military aircraft were on scene. “In my more than 20 years of service, I haven’t seen a B-2 before,” said Chief Master Sgt. Vance Clarke, 21st SW Command Chief, in awe. “This is like an air show on the ground,” added Dr. Mark Maksimowicz, superintendent, Falcon School District 49.

The group departed the flightline and headed toward the Red Flag building. Col. Tim Hopper, vice commander, Air Warfare Center, shared extensive knowledge about the base and his center. Col. Ron Mittenzwei, commander 414th Combat Training Squadron (Red Flag), showed exactly how the Total

Force trains to better prepare as a combat ready military. Video game-like scenes popped up onscreen to show a past exercise in motion. “My parents told me playing video games would get me nowhere,” said Chief Master Sgt. Bobby Smith, 302nd AW command chief. “I should have kept playing Space Invaders,” he said with a smile.

Lunch followed the Red Flag briefing, giving the attendees the opportunity to visit with each other and military representatives from Nellis AFB. They were able to ask questions and talk about what they had already seen and what lay ahead.

How space is opening the door in warfighting capability was the theme of the group’s next briefing. The briefer, Master Sgt. Kurt Reynolds, reviewed the space information Brig. Gen. Deal, and Col. Larry James, 50th SW commander, had shared prior to the group departing Peterson AFB. The briefer then added how they directly improve a warfighter’s capability and what advances the future holds. “Space is absolutely critical, if not 100 percent vital, to the fight,” said Reynolds, referring to a quote from the current chief of staff.

The group then moved on to the Threat Museum to examine some enemies’ equipment and aircraft. The tour guide highlighted several types of weaponry to include tanks. “This tank’s gas tank is in the rear — this helped allow for continued forward motion despite being fired upon. I think it might also have deterred retreat,” he joked.

The U.S. Air Force Demonstration Team, Thunderbirds, amazed the group next. Although not in the air, members from the team delivered a first-class briefing.

After ending the day of Air Force familiarization on a high note, the group retreated to their hotel for the evening. Many took advantage of being located on the Strip and toured the surrounding area. The motto, “work hard, play hard,” was definitely prac-



Photo by 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

Civic leaders learn all about the Space Launch Complex 10 at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. Here Jay Prichard, Museum Director, teaches the civic leaders the physics of launching satellites.

ticed. “I didn’t go to my room,” said Mariellen Marino, Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, when asked about her accommodations.

On day two, group members rose before the sun to continue their journey to Vandenberg AFB.

A 14th Air Force mission briefing jump-started the day of orientation for the group. The 30th Space Wing mission brief followed. The group then toured the Western Range Control Center.

After lunch, the group embarked to one of the 50th SW’s geographically separated units, Det. 1, 22nd Space Operations Squadron, VAFB tracking station. The briefing tied together how we communicate and operate in space.

The highlight for the day was the museum tour, given by Jay Prichard.

The group saw several examples of how space technology and inventions affect everyday life.

“The museum was great!” lauded one civic leader. “The speaker was awesome!”

After the museum tour, the group returned to the

See CIVIC LEADERS, Page 8

Air Force families ‘trade spaces’

1st Lt. Jillian Torango
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. – Two Air Force families traded their flight suits, battle uniforms and good clothing for bright orange and green smocks and a chance to participate on the television show "Trading Spaces."

Armed with paint rollers and putty knives, Maj. Peter and Bernadette Mastroianni and Capt. Patrick and Ruth Schlichenmeyer had two days to redecorate a room in each other's homes in base housing.

The two Air Force couples starred in a "Trading Spaces" episode scheduled to air Dec. 21, 22 and 24 on The Learning Channel.

About nine months ago, Air Mobility Command's public affairs staff invited the show's producers to bring the cast and crew to an Air Force base. The producers accepted, and since they were already scheduled to be in the St. Louis area, Scott Air Force Base became the taping site. Shortly after that acceptance, the talent hunt began. Eight teams of two families each applied to appear on the show, and the producers selected the Mastroianni-Schlichenmeyer team to represent the Air Force.

"The producers picked the team based on their application and personal interview," said Jacque Devine, chief of AMC's public outreach division and project coordinator. "I'm sure part of the reason was the friendship between the Mastroiannis and the Schlichenmeyers. Another was that the last day of taping was the fifth birthday of Mastroiannis' son, Mark. And Mark is a real fan of the

show. He knows all the designers by name."

The Mastroiannis had applied for the show as a special birthday present for Mark. Last year, Mark's fourth, birthday was not quite the celebration the family wanted it to be. His family birthday party was cancelled because of heightened security on base following Sept. 11, and his dad was deployed overseas for Operation Enduring Freedom.

The driving force behind the Schlichenmeyer's participation, according to Patrick, was that Ruth wanted to do "Trading Spaces" since the show hit the airwaves -- it was almost a goal. Once the production crew arrived, the Mastroiannis teamed up with the newest "Trading Spaces" designer, Kia Steave-Dickerson. Her credits include work on numerous sets as a designer and prop master for movies such as "Signs," "The Sixth Sense," "Beloved" and "Men In Black;" commercials for Betty Crocker and Chrysler; and the stage musicals "Cats" and "Grease."

Doug Wilson, a "Trading Spaces" mainstay, led the Schlichenmeyer team. His work has been featured in several publications such as the "New York Times," "Elle Decor" and "House & Garden." His clients include Liza Minnelli and Brooke Astor.

For the "Trading Spaces" crew, the project at Scott AFB was the first time they had been on a military installation.

Doug wanted to turn Mark's room into a scaled-down version of Route 66, while Kia gave her team the job of giving a family room a "military chic" makeover.



Photo by Bob Fehringer

"Trading Spaces" participants, Maj. Peter and Bernadette Mastroianni, repaint a piece of furniture belonging to Capt. Patrick and Ruth Schlichenmeyer as the video crew tapes their activity. The couples at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., will be featured in a December episode of the decorating show on The Learning Channel.

The teams worked hard throughout the two-day shoot, undaunted by the presence of the onlookers. The designers presented a few unusual challenges. The Schlichenmeyers helped designer Doug figure out how to get pieces of a car into Mark's bedroom. Then the captain spent hours with a saw cutting the car apart to make it fit through the door.

The pieces of the car became the centerpiece of a design that included a roadway painted on the walls with pieces of Velcro attached so Mark's extensive collection of toy cars could be placed on the walls.

Following Kia's direction, the Mastroiannis painted the

Schlichenmeyer living room battleship gray. The team added a freestanding fireplace, re-covered pillows and accented walls with arctic camouflage material. They also made curtains out of a light gray parachute material.

The look was not exactly what the Schlichenmeyers had in mind for their family room. In fact before the taping, Ruth asked the Mastroiannis to avoid camouflage.

"We had a lot of fun, but Bernadette and I had to really stick together as a team because we knew this wasn't what Pat and Ruth wanted," said Peter. "So keeping a positive [fun]

See SPACES, Page 8

Around the Air Force



SPACES, From Page 7

attitude helped us get through it and work with Kia with as little friction as possible. It's not like

you think. The designer had a pretty definite idea of what she wanted to do before she even got here."

By the time the projects were over, the media crew gained an



Courtesy photo

"Trading Spaces" host Paige Davis signs an autograph for young admirer Gabriel Coopridge at military family housing on Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Two couples at the base will be featured in a December episode of the decorating show on The Learning Channel.

appreciation of military life.

"I feel really privileged just to be here," said "Trading Spaces" host Paige Davis. "The level of honor and camaraderie with everyone here is just amazing, and I think it is going to show up on the program."

Davis took an opportunity to show off her new-found knowledge of the military when Gen. John W. Handy, commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command showed up on the set. Davis challenged him to a "coin check" – producing a military coin. The general challenged her back. Davis lost.

With minutes to spare before the general's departure on a flight overseas, Davis paid her dues by showing up in Handy's office with a pot of tea, his drink of preference.

For the flood of fans who showed up at the small section of base housing turned television production set, the cast signed more than 600 autographs and posed for more than 1,000 photographs.

And at the end of the two-day shoot, one little boy had an extra-special birthday.

When Davis asked Mark if he liked his room, he turned to his dad and whispered into his ear, "I love it." *(Courtesy of AMC News Service)*

CIVIC LEADERS, From Page 6

flightline and prepared for take off.

"If I was 21, I would have enlisted today," said Marino. "I thought the subject matter was very diverse — keeping my interest peaked."

Chip Dreamer, Colorado Springs Sky Sox group sales rep, said, "I was aware we had an Air Force, but did not know much about it." All that has now changed since Dreamer and the other civic leaders saw in person just what the Air Force does day-to-day.

The group smiled as the landing gear was lowered in preparation for landing at Peterson AFB.

The return home was upon them and soon the civic leaders would leave their new friends and reunite with family and friends to share their "war" stories of the past 48 hours.

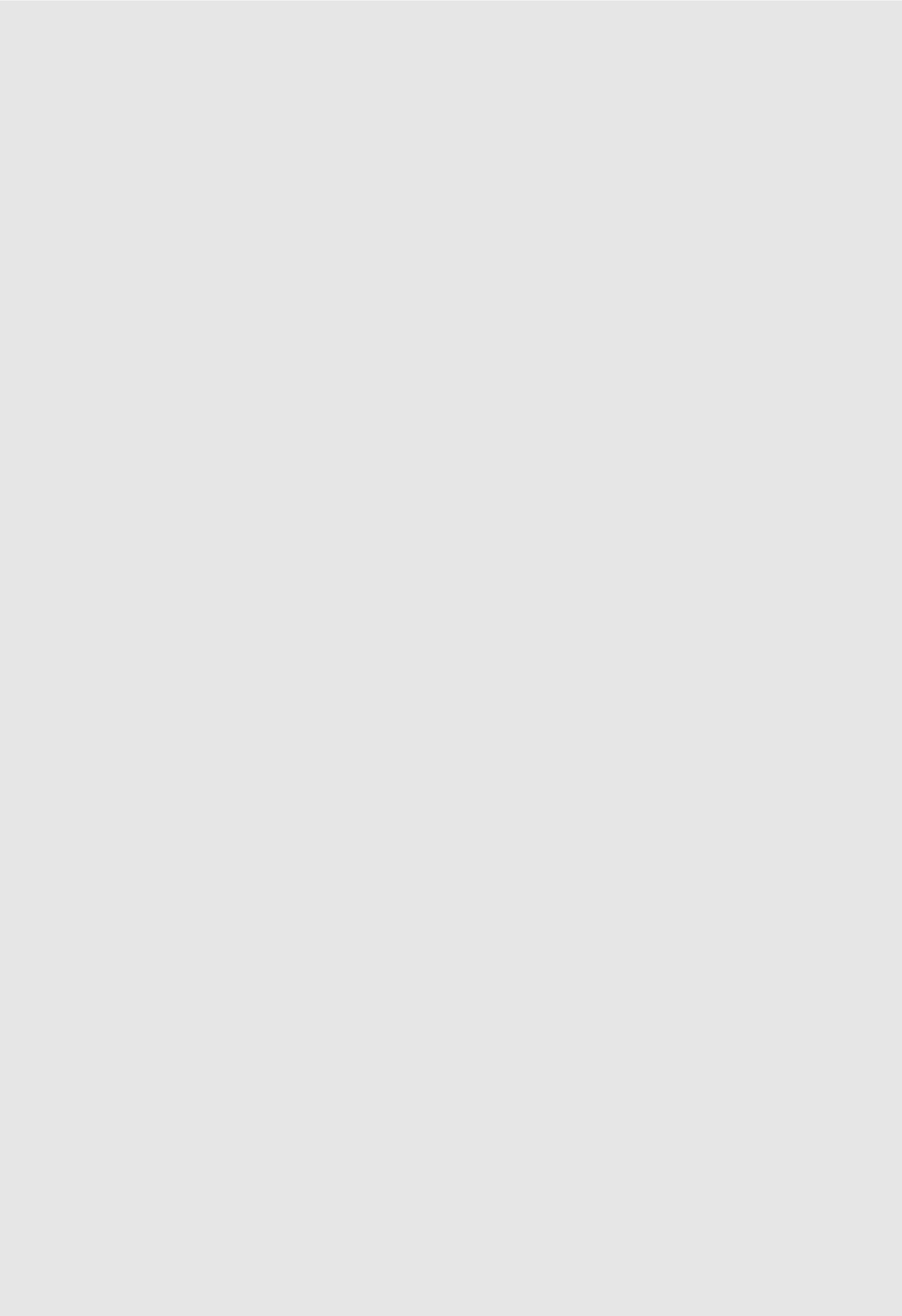
"Thank you for the experience of a lifetime," said Judith Cara. "I'm very tired but very happy."

"I would love to go again and will let everyone I know what an outstanding experience it was," said Marino.

"The entire trip was a delightful experience — many thanks. I have memories for a lifetime," said another pleased civic leader.

"I lived in Denver as a child and knew about Peterson but I never really understood all that the base or the Air Force does," said Eldon Likkel, Cripple Creek Chamber of Commerce.

"This trip has been fascinating — a real eye-opener," said his wife, Helen, also with the Cripple Creek Chamber of Commerce.





Heart of America Quilt comes to Peterson

By Tech. Sgt. Gino Mattorano

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Peterson is a key contributor to the Heart of America Quilt Project, thanks to the volunteer efforts of a 21st Space Communications Squadron noncommissioned officer.

Staff Sgt. Chris Valgardson is the Colorado State representative for the project, and is coordinating the state’s efforts to get the word out to people in Colorado.

“We had a quilt panel available for people to sign at the Fire Department Flagpole dedication ceremony Tuesday,” said Valgardson. “The panel will commemorate the event with signatures and notes from

the attendees. I am planning to have another panel available today and over the weekend at the Chapel, as part of Make a Difference day. I am also soliciting individuals from around the base to sponsor panels for their organizations beginning next week.”

The Heart of America Quilt project began Sept. 13, 2001, to help Maine children feel a sense of helpfulness surrounding the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, according to Susan Morissette, co-founder and CEO of the Hearts of America Quilt.

Morissette envisioned the quilt on the day of the attack. As she watched television with her children under a big comforter, one of her children said

he wished everyone could feel so safe and warm. So Morissette came up with the idea to make a quilt big enough to cover thousands. The quilt is made up of individual panels from events and locations around the country and beyond. Within weeks the quilt included seven other states, and has since grown to 47 states -- and includes signatures from eight other countries.

Valgardson became involved in the quilt project when he was looking for a Make a Difference Day project to be involved in.

“This project was on the national listing,” he said. “It was a bit unusual, but the message behind it really struck me.

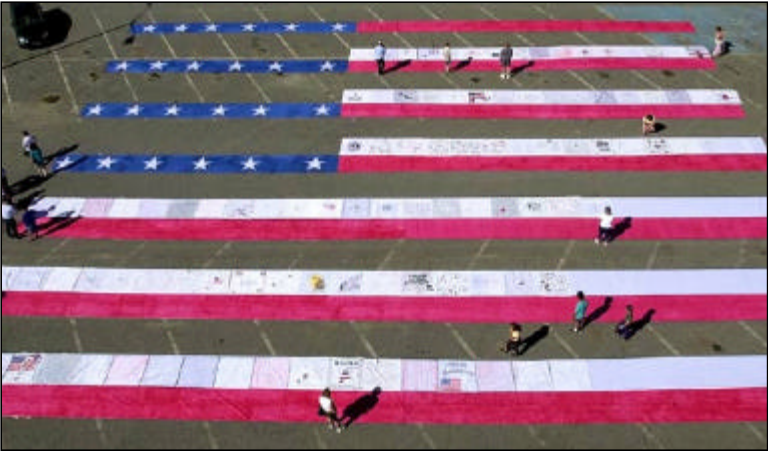


Photo by Jonathan Miano, Courtesy *The Morning Sentinel*, Waterville, Maine
Volunteers work on the Heart of America Quilt while it was on display in Waterville, Maine.

After doing some research, I phoned the chairperson. When I promised to involve the various military bases in Colorado, and get it to the local school district, she asked if I would be willing to step up to coordinate the state efforts, and I happily obliged.”

In order to make the project successful, Valgardson will need help from Team Peterson.

“I’m looking for people willing to sponsor a panel,” said Valgardson. “It can represent an organization, commemorate an event (like the flagpole), or an individual who died because of the events of 9/11 or Noble Eagle. Basically, they only need to provide space to display a panel, determine the theme, and solicit participation. The cost is nominal, less than \$10 in materials, which I can also provide.”

Valgardson feels that the project is dependent upon the efforts of many.

“Its design is the image of a flag, composed of panels to remember those who died, and honor the continued sacrifice of others,” he said.

“It all started with a mother of four, wife of a veteran, who went from tree-hugger to freedom fighter because she was faced with the reality of our Nation’s sacrifice,” said Valgardson. “Now she wants to honor us, but it requires our participation. It’s like she planned a birthday party, but one of the guests of honor didn’t want to come. In over a year now, we will be the first active duty military folks, aside from the Pentagon, to contribute to her effort. I feel we owe her a big ‘You’re Welcome,’ for her earnest ‘Thank You.’”



A T Y O U R S E R V I C E

Chief gets ready to rumble

By 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout
[21st Space Wing Public Affairs](#)

The 21st Space Wing's Command Chief is stepping up and rolling up his sleeves to challenge anybody and everybody to different activities offered by the 21st Service Squadron.

"I call it the Chief's Challenge," said Chief Master Sergeant Vance Clarke, 21st Space Wing Command Chief. "It's a program where I challenge people-- active duty, retirees, civilians, family members--anyone out there, to participate in an activity with me. Whenever possible, the challenge involves seeing who finishes with the best time, you or me. But most of the time, the challenge is just to get out there and do it."

The 21st Services Squadron chooses a new challenge for the chief for each month. In November, two activities have been chosen. The first is a 10K Mountain Bike Ride/Race on Nov. 1. This is a free event that starts at 11:30 a.m. at the Fitness Center.

"I challenge you to participate in the ride and beat my time, if you think you can," said Clarke. "I may be older than some of you, but I'm not as slow as you might think."

Mountain bikes and helmets can be rented from Outdoor Recreation at a special rate of \$10 for the Chief's Challenge.

The second challenge is the Back to the Basics Circuit Course, a free class at the Fitness Center. The class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Gym #2.

The Chief will challenge those who show up Nov. 7.

"There you go, two relatively



Photo by Margie Arnold
Standing left: Airman first class Jeff Fackler, instructor for the Back to the Basics Circuit Course, demonstrates exercises to 21st Space Wing Command Chief Vance Clarke for a preview of what he's getting into next month.

simple challenges," said Clarke. "I like to get out and try something new and have fun doing it. I hope you will join me and I look forward to seeing some familiar faces and some new ones as well."

Future challenges will range from special classes offered at the Fitness Center, running in races, downhill ski racing, a round of golf, and more.

The Chief is open to any challenge offered by the Services Squadron.

"I have never tried yoga, but if they want me to try a yoga class, I will be there bending, twisting, and stretching," said Clarke. "You can laugh all you want. I'll probably be

laughing at myself quite a bit, too. Whatever the challenge, I promise you that I will be there trying my best and having fun doing it."

The Chief's Challenge is just another way for people to learn of the many unknown services offered at Peterson.

"If you wonder why I'm trying so many things and why I challenge you to do them with me, it's because life is short and it is not a spectator sport," said Clarke. "There are plenty of good things offered to us right here on base. I want us to all enjoy as much of it as we possibly can."

(Story information courtesy of Margie Arnold, 21st Services Squadron)

This Week

Saturday & Sunday

- Haunted House at Joy Rides and Fright Fest at Elitch Gardens; tickets now available at the Community Activities Center.

Monday

- Mothers on the Move, at the Family Advocacy Center.
- The Silver Spruce Golf course is now open for play Mondays, weather permitting.

Tuesday

- Transition Planning, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Resume Review, 9-11 a.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Interviewing class, 1-3 p.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Session III lessons start at the Aquatics Center.

Wednesday

- Small Business class, 8 a.m. - noon, at the Family Support Center.
- Get Devil's Food Cake at half price, at the Bowling Center.

Thursday

- Play group, 10:30 a.m.- noon, at the Chapel.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers' Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Aragon Menu Line 556-4782
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

This Week

SERVICES CALENDARS

At the Officers' Club		October 25 -- Last lobster dinner of the year, 6-8 p.m.	October 29-- Steak night, 6-8 p.m.	October 31-- Alaskan King Crabs, 6-8 p.m.
At the Enlisted Club		October 30 -- Pasta buffet, 5-7 p.m.	November 13 -- Pasta buffet, 5-7 p.m.	November 20 -- Chicken buffet, 5-7 p.m.
At Outdoor Recreation		October 26 -- Kayak lessons end.	November 2 -- Trip to Carlsbad Caverns, N.M. starts.	November 4 -- Trip to Carlsbad Caverns ends.

TEAM PETE CREEPS INTO SCARE SEASON

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Epperson

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Halloween is just around the corner, and Team Pete is preparing for this year's celebrating trick-or-treaters with Operation Pumpkin Patrol.

"Operation Pumpkin Patrol consists of groups of Security Forces patrolmen who volunteer to walk or bike in base housing to provide safety for kids and families who are out trick-or-treating," said Senior Airman Bryan Burger, 21st SFS patrolman.

Trick-or-treating hours in base housing are from 5:30 to 8 p.m., and during these hours readily identifiable Pumpkin Patrolmen will be hitting the streets. They will be wearing orange vests or distinctive-colored shirts, so parents and kids can spot them in the event of a problem.

"The major issues on Halloween are older kids trying to take candy from younger kids -- bag snatching," Burger said. "Other problems are with vehicle and pedestrian accidents. Parents need to make sure their kids are going to be visible in the dark," he added.

According to Burger, children should wear light-colored or reflective clothing and carry a flashlight. Also, motorists should reduce their speed in housing and watch closely for excited children running into the street.

"There will be more than 25 Pumpkin Patrolmen on the streets this Halloween to ensure the base community isn't hampered by any of these problems," Burger said.

Operation Pumpkin Patrol or similar programs are in place at bases throughout the Air Force.

"I have volunteered for this all nine years of my career at four different bases to ensure a safe environment for the children," said Staff Sgt. Jared Psinas, armory noncommissioned officer in charge.

According to Psinas, the program shows the base community that they care and helps ease their worries about their children being out in the streets at night. He added that trick-or-treaters can just have fun, because the patrolmen are there to look out for them.

"I am looking forward to interacting with the kids and their parents and seeing all the different costumes," Psinas said. "It makes me proud to see the look in their eyes that says 'I know you are here for us, and that makes us feel safe.'"



Photos by Staff Sgt. Melanie Epperson

The Irish folktale brought to America by immigrants in the 1800s about the trickster Jack and his lantern spawned a unique tradition and symbol of Halloween. These two jack-o'-lanterns are on display at the Campbells' residence at 519 D McGuire Street on base.



In the true "spirit" of Halloween, the Reeves family decorated their house at 428 Selfridge Street on base with all manner of ghosts and ghouls. Their yard is littered with body parts, coffins, cobwebs, and even a cemetery.

Halloween's origins date back more than 2,000 years

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Epperson

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Witches, ghosts, goblins, haunted houses, jack-o'-lanterns, and ... free candy!

These are just a few things people think of when someone mentions Halloween, but where did this tradition come from?

The origin of Halloween can be traced all the way back to the ancient Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the lands that are now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and France.

The Celts lived in pagan times and acknowledged many gods. They didn't believe in the devil, but they did believe there were dangerous spirits and creatures in the world. They lived in a time of superstition, a time of fairies, goblins, and giants. To the Celts, changing points, such as day into night, sea into shore, and one year into the next were magical times. These were times when the lines between the natural and the supernatural, and even time and space were blurred. The most important of these was the turning of one year into the next. This happened on November 1, the day of the Celtic New Year.

On the night of October 31st, the Celts celebrated with the festival or feast of Samhain, pronounced sow-en. Samhuinn, in the original Scots Gaelic language, means "summer's end." It was celebrated as the end of harvest and the beginning of the long, hard winter. It was also the night when the spirits of the dead were closest to the earth. On this night, the Celts extinguished their hearth fires as a symbol of the end of summer, and when the celebration was over they relit their hearths with embers from the central fire of the Druids at Tlachtga, 12 miles from the royal hill of Tara.

The Druids were the priests, lawmakers, judges, scholars, poets, and scientists among the Celts. The rekindling from the Druid's sacred bonfire symbolized the hope for the spring to come.

The Romans had conquered the majority of the Celtic territory

by A.D. 43, and in the 400 years that Rome ruled the land, their traditions and celebrations were added to Samhain. One was Feralia, a day when the Romans celebrated the dead. The second day was dedicated to Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees.

By the 800s, the influence of Christianity was far reaching, and Christian views began spreading in the Celtic lands. Previously in A.D. 601, Pope Gregory the First issued an edict concerning the assimilation of native customs and celebrations into the Catholic Church. For example, if a custom was to worship a holy stone, the missionaries would consecrate the stone to Christ and allow its continued worship. According to some scholars, this allowed the Christian faith to grow tremendously and was a brilliant concept for its time.

Pope Gregory IV moved the celebration of saints and martyrs, All Saints' Day, to November 1 in A.D. 835. The celebration was also called All Hallows or All Hallowmas, meaning "the mass of the holy ones." The night before became known as All Hallows Eve, or All Hallows E'en, and eventually Halloween.

Similarly, the church made November 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead. It was celebrated with bonfires, and dressing up in costumes of saints, angels and devils. These three celebrations eventually led to our modern version of Halloween.

The custom of trick-or-treating also has far-reaching origins. Some scholars believe it began with the early All Soul's Day parades in England. On that day, beggars would go door-to-door, village-to-village and ask for soul cakes. These were square cakes made from bread and currants. In exchange for the soul cakes, the beggars would promise to pray for that family's dead relatives. They believed the more prayers said for them would make it easier to achieve an afterlife.

Eventually, the practices of the festival, dressing up and going door to door for food or money, developed a "trick" side.

In 1846, the United States was flooded with Irish immigrants

trying to escape their country's potato famine. They brought their Halloween customs with them. A tradition brought by Irish and Scottish immigrants was Mischief Night, a night when people did such things as tipping over outhouses or unhinging fence gates.

Another of these customs was the jack-o'-lantern. According to Irish folklore, Jack was a notorious trickster, miser, and drunkard. He supposedly tricked Satan into climbing a tree. Once there, Jack carved a cross into the tree and trapped Satan there. He made a deal with the devil and finally let him down. According to the tale, after Jack died he was denied entrance to heaven for evil ways, and Satan, wouldn't let him into Hell since he had tricked him. Jack was destined to roam the cold, dark void as a wandering spirit. To light his way in the endless night, the devil gave Jack a single ember. He placed the ember in a hollowed out turnip, so it would glow longer.

When the immigrants came to America, they found pumpkins were more plentiful than turnips, thus the modern tradition of the pumpkin jack-o'-lantern.

During the Great Depression, Halloween became a way for the poor to vent their frustrations. Pranks on Mischief Night became more violent, and vandalism was rampant, but by the 1950s the number of "tricks" was greatly reduced. The Protestant American communities tried to take the superstition out of Halloween by making the festivities a community-building event. They organized parties at local churches, town civic centers, and schools and generally tried to take anything pagan out of the festivities. The occasion became a day for children to gather candy or money, and communities to come together at parties with games, costumes, and foods of the season. With public parties and trick-or-treaters roaming the streets, pranks became few. When the pranksters were receiving "treats," they had little time for "tricks."

A tradition was born, and today Americans spend an average of \$6.9 billion a year on Halloween, ranking it just under Christmas as the second largest commercial holiday.



This decorative cemetery at 428 Selfridge Street on base is reminiscent of the customary Celtic, Roman, and Catholic tributes to the dead on All Hallows Eve.

Peterson
trick-or-treating:
Thursday, Oct. 31,
5:30-8 p.m.



Are you losing millions of dollars?

By Senior Master Sgt.
Daniel Kelley
1st Space Control Squadron

Lack of education can literally cost you millions of dollars over your lifetime.

According to a 1999 U.S. Census Bureau study, an average high school graduate working full-time will earn \$1,226,000 in his or her lifetime. By comparison, an average person will earn \$1,564,000 with an associate's degree, \$2,140,000 with a bachelor's degree, and \$2,463,000 with a master's degree.

What does a degree cost? Let's start with an associate's degree. In the Air Force, we have a unique opportunity to earn an accredited associate's degree through the Community College of the Air Force. The CCAF gives credit for most of your military training. These usually satisfy about 34 credits toward the 64 needed for the CCAF degree. Cost so far: \$0. That leaves about 30 credits (10 classes) to graduate.

Now consider credit by examination. The Air Force offers the opportunity to earn free college credit through the

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests. Each test has a different average pass rate, but an average person can reasonably expect to pass 50-60 percent of them. Assuming you take 10 CLEPs/DSSTs and pass six, you need only four classes to graduate. Cost so far: \$0.

Now comes the time to take classes. Since tuition assistance now covers 100 percent of tuition (with a cap on cost-per-credit and fiscal year), you only need to fork over a small registration fee and \$40-60 per textbook per class. Total cost for your associate's degree: about \$200. Even if you take the remaining 10 classes for the degree, you can expect to pay roughly \$600 for books.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, that \$200-\$600 investment translates to an additional \$7,780 per year on average in the civilian workforce, or \$338,000 in your work-life, over a high school diploma.

So you already have your associate's degree? What about a bachelor's degree? Assuming books for junior/senior year classes cost \$60-\$100 per class,

your out-of-pocket cost would be about \$1,200-\$2,000 to graduate. Cumulative cost for the associate's and bachelor's degrees: about \$2,000. Your return-on-investment for that \$2,000 bachelor's degree is worth an average of \$21,795 per year, or \$914,000 in your work-life.

The story is very similar for master's degrees. Cumulative cost for the associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees: about \$3,000. The return-on-investment for that master's degree is \$31,859 per year, or \$1.24 million in your work-life, over a high school diploma.

Not thinking about getting out yet? Education is a major factor in promotions through the Stripes to Exceptional Performers and Senior Airman Below-the-Zone programs, and is essential for promotion to senior and chief master sergeant. Of course, if you're considering pursuing a commission, a bachelor's degree is required to attend OTS.

Now ask yourself, "Am I willing to lose up to \$1.2 million because I don't think I can afford a \$600, \$2,000 or \$3,000 college education? Hopefully, your answer is, "No!"

Peak Performer

Name: Senior Airman Jeramey W. Conley
Unit: 2nd Space Warning Squadron
Duty Title: Data Systems Operator
Time in Service: 3 years
Hometown: Santa Maria, Calif.

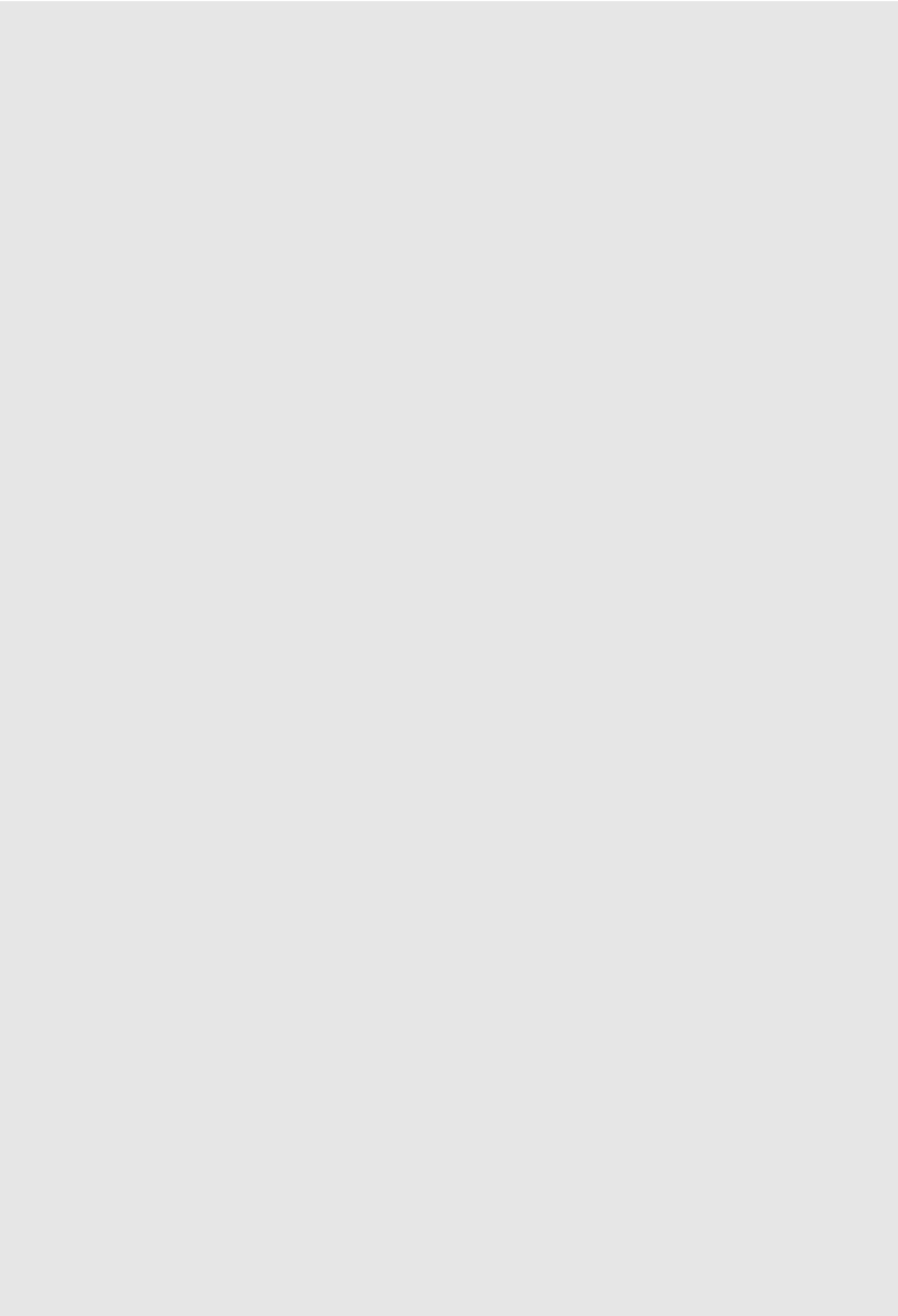


Off-duty Interests: He holds a 3.5 grade point average at Community College of Aurora, volunteers at local elementary schools, enjoys spending time with his wife, and playing computer games with his friends.

Accomplishments: He is an operations crewmember and DSO line instructor. He was selected for promotion to senior airman below the zone, Razor Sharp award, Crew of the Quarter twice, Crew of the Year for 2001, and is the current squadron Airman of the Quarter.

Why did you join the Air Force? I wanted to serve my country, pay for school, be independent, and enjoy the stability the military provides for my family. My favorite part of the job is the dynamic environment I work in, the technology I work with, and training new people to do the job.





A little recognition goes a long way

By Lt. Col. Cheryl Junker
21st Logistics Group Commander

One of the most important things we as members of Team Pete can do is show our gratitude to the people who support the mission of our wing. We must say “thank you,” “well done,” and “you are valued” to deserving personnel serving with us.

Honoring employees is important for many reasons. It motivates outstanding achievement, rewards those who achieve mission objectives, and builds individual and unit morale.

Recognizing a job well done can take many forms, from awarding a medal to writing a thank-you note. Awards also offer opportunities for professional growth and promotion. Most importantly, they offer a personal feeling of accomplishment.

It is all of our responsibility to know what awards are available to us. Investigate award possibilities within your office and functional area, as well as outside your organization. Look for those people you want to motivate and recognize – and don't forget about yourself!

If you, your project, or your team deserves recognition, who could say it better? I once wrote up an award package for a project I worked on with a team. We didn't think we had a chance at winning, but the effort paid off – the whole team was recognized for outstanding accomplishment. It just took a little effort. Also, don't forget about personnel in other organizations outside of your office. They often are an integral part in making your organization or project successful.

Some people do not like to be nominated for awards. Find out what rewards those people prefer. Maybe it's a day off or a squadron pen. I once worked with someone who just wanted ice cream. Don't forget thank-you notes – they are very powerful tools. The goal is to use the right reward to recognize your outstanding performers.

Writing awards is time consuming and often difficult, but the payoff is great. In the written award package, keep in mind the objectives of the organization and the impact of the work on our mission. Ask individuals to keep a log of their accomplishments both on and off the job. This log will assist you in compiling a package.

Let someone else read your submission – you may overlook an important point. Anticipate when award packages are due and make sure your best people are given the ammunition to compete. If your folks are lacking in community service, for instance, encourage them to volunteer. Calendars with due dates and deadlines are helpful to track written award nominations.

Whatever method of reward you chose, make sure it is timely. Rewards that come too long after the accomplishment lose their effect. Take the opportunity to publicly recognize individuals or teams. On-the-spot awards are great. It doesn't have to come from a supervisor or commander; often the most rewarding recognition comes from a peer. If you think they're doing a great job, stop and tell them. It is critical we let others know they are an important part of our team.

A good reward system should foster personal growth and development, and hopefully, retain talented people. Don't let the opportunity to take care of our people pass. Do your part in keeping this the best wing in the Air Force!



Viewpoint

For want of a nail: All members of Team Pete crucial to mission success



By Lt. Col. Thomas Lowry
21st Comptroller Squadron Commander

Many of you remember the old rhyme about the Horseshoe Nail, a clever illustration of cause and effect, and the importance of small things to the overall scheme. The version I recall goes like this:

*For want of a nail, the shoe was lost;
For want of the shoe, the horse was lost;
For want of the horse, the rider was lost;
For want of the rider, the battle was lost;
For want of the battle, the kingdom was lost;
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.*

While the context of the poem is dated, the moral is timeless and worthy of reflection for those serving in the profession of arms.

In the short rhyme of the horseshoe nail, we see how a simple chain of cause and effect relationships ultimately led to the demise of a kingdom, “all for the want of a horseshoe nail.” This chain of events can be easily applied to any of our daily tasks. Particularly in the military where simple actions can result in life or death outcomes, it is critical we all understand the concept of cause and effect.

Safety is a perfect illustration of cause and effect, how small actions lead to large outcomes. This past year has not been a good one for the Air Force in terms of mishaps and fatalities. I am confident most accidents could be prevented if those involved recognized the cause and effect of their decisions and made the smart choice before reaching a tragic outcome.

Another lesson of the horseshoe nail is that small things matter! One of retired Gen. Colin

Powell’s 10 rules outlined in his autobiography is to “check small things.” Gen. Powell’s attention to detail saved the life of one of his troops who was not secured to a static line as he was about to jump out of an airplane.

There is a popular self-help book on the market titled “Don't Sweat the Small Stuff (and its all small stuff).” I understand the message the book attempts to convey, but I believe it could also send a bad signal. While we shouldn’t obsess about insignificant issues, sometimes it’s okay to sweat the small stuff. The horseshoe nail was small stuff.

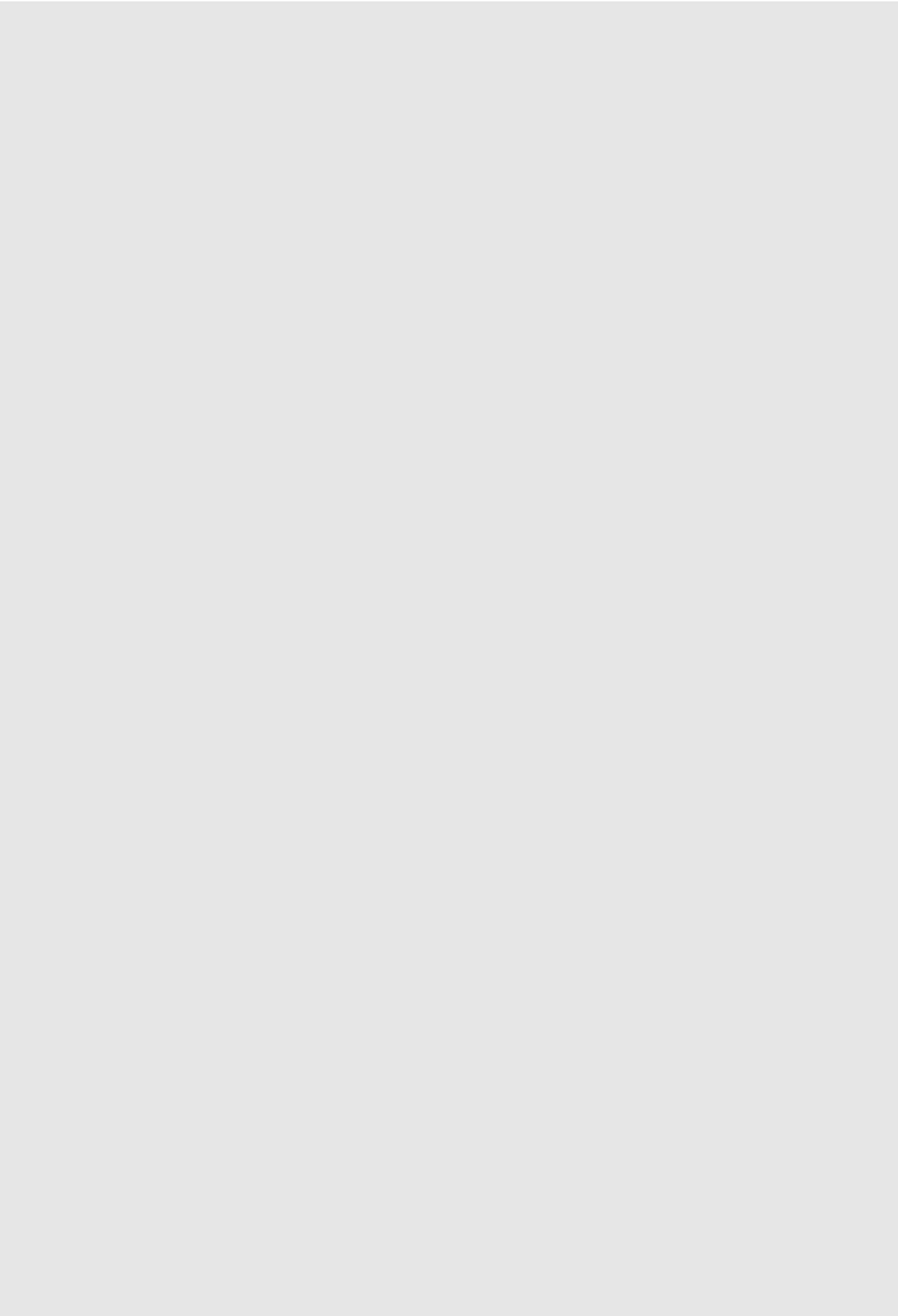
The final thought taken from the example of the horseshoe nail is that everything and everyone contributes in some way to the success of an organization. Even if you are playing what you feel is a minor role like the “horseshoe nail” in your unit, your contributions make a difference.

For the finance technician processing travel vouchers, if the customer is not paid right, on time, they could be distracted in their duties. If they are distracted, they may not be focused on their duties which could affect any number of different things, large and small.

As leaders and mentors, it is crucial we convey to our troops the important role we all play as component pieces of the larger mission, that small things matter, and that our actions, small or large, produce outcomes.

We all represent that small horseshoe nail, and whether it be a kingdom or the 21st Space Wing, we are all crucial to mission success every day and in every way.







NORAD anglers reel in Trout Bum championship

By Senior Airman Shane Sharp

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Wanted: Two “trout bums” to spend 10 days doing nothing but fishing. Oh yeah, you’ll also get paid for it.

Many are the anglers that would jump at that offer. That’s just what two officers from the North American Aerospace Defense Command did.

Col. Jeff Harrell, NORAD Deputy Inspector General, and Maj. Kenneth Korpak, Chief, Future Air Defense Requirements at NORAD, were recently named winners of Fly Rod and Reel Magazine’s Trout Bum Tournament.

The contest was simple. See which of six teams could get the most fun fishing out of \$500.

“I read about the tournament and decided to try it,” said Harrell. “We applied and got selected for the tournament.”

Harrell and Korpak were chosen as one of only six teams in North America to participate in the tournament.

“The first thing we did was to figure out what we really wanted to get out of this trip,” said Harrell. “Goal number one was to simply have a good time.”

Both team members agree that the mission was accomplished in that respect.

“How can a team not have fun when someone is paying you to fish?” said Harrell. “We had it all: incredible water, scenery, and fish. Not to mention the antelope, bison, elk, otters, eagles, ospreys, waterfowl, etc., that added to our experience. We drove 1,300 miles in and around Yellowstone through the most beautiful settings in the country, and fished eight of the most famous waters known to fly anglers, and a couple more that aren’t so famous.”

“Our second goal was to spend as much time fishing as possible,” said Korpak. “It’s not often you get to spend 10 days doing nothing but casting to trout, so our intent was to pack as much fishing into the ten days as we could, so we decided to stay in one place and fish different rivers from there every day.”

“By staying in one place for the entire 10 days, we were able cut down on time spent traveling, as well as time spent packing and unpacking — and less time spent traveling made for more time fishing and less money spent on gas,” said Korpak.

“We also wanted to get on water that provided not only a wide range of scenery, but also a wide range of conditions like big tailwaters as well as small spring creeks and freestone streams,” said Harrell. “We didn’t want to spend all of our time searching for water, but we wanted some of the excitement of exploring and fishing unfamiliar waters. All of these factors combined pointed us to the Yellowstone National Park area, with access to the Madison River in Montana, the Henry’s Fork, the Teton River, and all of the rivers and streams in Yellowstone National Park.”

Taking into consideration river levels, tourist

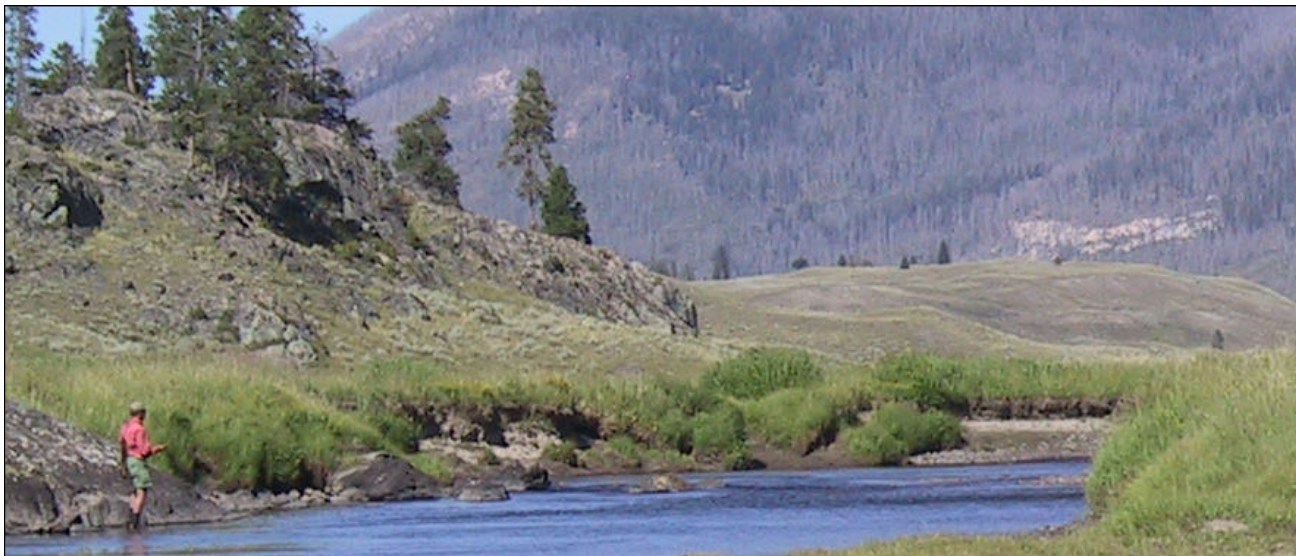


Photo by Maj. Kenneth Korpak

Col. Jeff Harrell tries his luck on the Slough Creek in northeastern Yellowstone National Park.

crowds in Yellowstone National Park, and scheduling leave, the anglers decided to begin their fishing foray in early August. That left just one last thing to be decided before the trip.

“Once we finally decided on a good time, we faced the last hurdle,” said Harrell. “We asked my wife and she said okay.”

Another part of their plan was to stretch their money as far as it would go, which led to their last and least goal — win the Trout Bum Tournament.

“We came in well under budget,” said Harrell. “Our plan was to buy all of our groceries in advance, have as many meals as possible prepared before we left, and then just warm the food at night when we returned from fishing as we typed the daily report. Not only did this save us money, but it also gave us more time to plan the next day’s fishing and to tie flies.

Extra time for tying flies would prove to be of the utmost importance.

Day six saw the first and worst casualties of the trip. The team was floating down the Henry’s Fork with friend, retired Master Sgt. Tim Randolph, who volunteered to travel from Ogden, Utah, to act as oarsman for a couple of days.

“We were drifting through fast water when my line got hung up,” said Korpak. “The current shot the boat directly toward where my line was hung up and, as I tried to break the line, my rod tip started to dip underneath the bow. I tried to move the rod so it wouldn’t break and as I was switching hands my rod fell into the water.”

The team was stunned, but that would only be the leading jab of what turned out to be a heavy one-two punch.

“Five or ten minutes after losing my rod, we noticed that Jeff’s fishing vest was missing,” said Korpak. “At some point during the drift it must have slipped off his rear casting seat.”

“The term Trout Bum took on a whole new meaning,” said Harrell. “Besides the losses in terms of monetary value, the impact on our ability to effectively complete our mission was nearly devastating.”

All said, the two unlucky anglers lost a rod, reel, three fly boxes totaling nearly 400 flies, a 35mm camera, and a fishing vest with all of its contents.

Down, but not out, the team regrouped and continued on with their mission. They improvised to make up for some of the losses and spent much more time tying flies. The setbacks didn’t keep them off the water, and the pair finished out the remaining days of their fishing adventure.

Since Harrell and Korpak are catch-and-release fishermen, there were no trout dinners on the trip, and for those concerned about the well-being of our nation’s trout population, the fishing partners said all fish revived just fine.

When it was all said and done, the team agrees it wasn’t the number or size of the fish caught that sticks

in their mind, but the experience of spending 10 days in beautiful wilderness.

“Yellowstone was beautiful,” said Korpak. “We saw more wildlife than you could count. We fished next to buffalo and elk. It was great.”

“The scenery and the weather were great,” said Harrell. “We got to spend 10 days of pure fishing in some of the most beautiful land in the country.”

Korpak also received an education in fly fishing. He had only four months of experience with a fly rod before leaving on the Trout Bum expedition where he experienced nearly every aspect of the sport.

“With just a few months of fishing under his (wading) belt, Ken fished pocket water, big sprawling rivers, small meadow streams, and clear spring creeks. He fished dries and nymphs. He waded and he floated. He has experienced just about every kind of trout fishing there is — and he did great,” said Harrell.

“I learned as much about fly fishing as I think a person can in 10 days,” said Korpak. “It was a challenge learning to fish on all the different types of water, but it’s something I’ll never forget.”

The fishing duo is grateful for the experience and for those who helped make it happen.

“The trip wouldn’t have been possible without the support of my wife Susie and Ken’s fiancé Lori, who afforded us the time to pass up the daily ‘honey dos’ and fish for 10 days straight,” said Harrell. “They also fixed a lot of meals and froze them for us, which saved us time and money and helped keep us going.”

Looking back on the experience, winning the tournament didn’t really change the feelings of the NORAD anglers. They felt like winners from the start.

“We both considered ourselves winners because we were getting paid to fish,” said Korpak. “It was an amazing experience. I don’t think we’ll ever get a chance to do something like that again.”

(Trout Bum Tournament information courtesy of Fly, Rod and Reel Magazine)



Photo by Col. Jeff Harrell

Maj. Kenneth Korpak fishes next to some grazing elk.



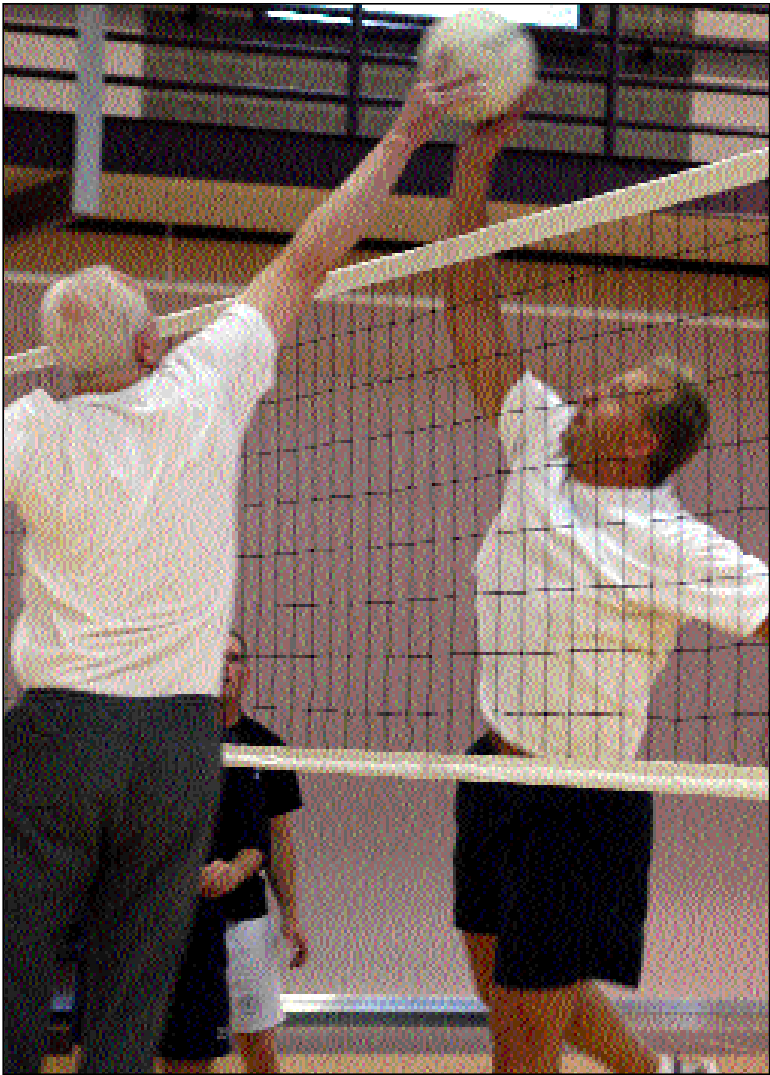
A cutthroat trout poses for a photo before returning to Slough Creek. The fish was one of many caught during the 10-day fishing trip.



Chiefs and Eagles go head to head

Left: During the Oct. 18 Chiefs vs. Eagles practice volleyball game, Chief Master Sgt. Vance Clarke, 21st Space Wing Command Chief, goes up for a block, while Chief Master Sgt. Ken Zito, 21st Mission Support Group, gets ready to dig the ball. On the Eagles' side from right to left, Col. Alvin Strait, 21st Maintenance Group, pushes the ball, while Lt. Col. Alvin Kemmet, 21st Mission Support Group, and Col. Marvin Fisher, 21st Mission Support Group, watch.

Below: Col. Charles Bateman, 21st Director of Staff, spikes the ball as Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Curtis, 21st Space Communications Squadron, blocks. This set of practice games are a prelude to upcoming Chiefs and Eagles competition games in selected sports.



Photos by Rob Bussard

Youth basketball registration is underway. Sign up at Building 625. Coaches are needed for the youth basketball season. Call the youth sports department at 556-5242.